



What We Know Now: Activities For Children

A review of the 2010 Activity Grants:
Program participation results and
stories from grant recipients

Benefits of a Summer Program with Activities

Kids

Continued development and growth during
summer months while school is out.

Parents

Support for struggling families year round.

Schools and Organizations

Increased participation = higher reimbursement
for sponsor

Communities

Additional summer employment for local
communities

Program Numbers

Almost 60,000 kids are eligible to participate in Free and Reduced-Price School Meals.

- Of those 60,000 - only about 15% participate in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

Activity Mini-Grant Summary

Funding Goal

*To assist Montana Summer Food Service Program sponsors to offer recreational and/or educational activities and/or provide transportation to **promote child participation and lengthen the time the program is offered** during the summer.*

Funding Source

Funds were made available from TANF Emergency Funds (Part of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009)

Mini-Grant Applicants/Awards

- Any SFSP open site sponsor could apply via a competitive grant process.
- Application had to meet grant requirements.

Funding Amounts

SFSP sponsors could apply for funding of up to \$5,000 per site with a maximum of \$20,000 per sponsor.

Grant Timeline (2010)

- ◉ **April:** Announcement/application sent out to SFSP sponsors
- ◉ **May 1st:** deadline for application
- ◉ **May:** OPI SFSP sponsor trainings
- ◉ **Mid-May:** OPI, DPHHS, MFBN met to evaluate applications and select awardees.
- ◉ **June:** award letters sent out and contracts returned
- ◉ **July and August:** Grant period
- ◉ **August 5th & September 6th:** Deadlines for reimbursement claims

Mini-Grant Uses

- Staff
- Transportation
- Supplies/Equipment

Activity Grant Results

Sponsor Use of Funds

- Transportation to and from multiple sites
- Skate park provided skateboards and other activities for kids
- School gardening projects and demonstrations
- Craft activities
- Games
- Swimming at town pool
- Physical activity
- Employ high school students to run activities

Program Growth

- Increase from 2009 to 2010:
 - Increase of 10 sponsors and 11 sites
 - Additional 33,991 lunches served
 - Additional 4,478 breakfasts served

Increase in Site Participation with Grant

- Sites Existing in 2009 and 2010:
 - 20% increase in total meals served
 - 11% increase in children served

Increased Participation = \$\$\$

Example:

Summer 2009:

Child participation = 60

Summer 2010 Increase Participation 20%:

Child Participation= 72

Reimbursement for a Self Prep site with 60 kids:

\$197.55

Reimbursement for a Self Prep with 72 kids:

\$237.06

Increase in Reimbursement with 20% Increase in
Child Participation= **\$39.51**



**Total child participation at mini-grant
sites 2010:**

3,639 unduplicated children participated in activities provided with SFSP
mini-grant funding in July and August 2010.
(Source: 2010 Activity Mini-Grant - Monthly Sponsor Data Reports)

Mini-Grant Recipient Exit Survey

Recipient Survey Results

Did the activities offered increase child participation at your SFSP site?

- 88% thought the funding helped increase child participation at their site(s).
- "In June, the school served an average of 19 students a day. In July, with the program, it served an average of 40 students".

Recipient Survey Results

Would you have been able to extend the length of your Summer Food program without the Activity Mini-Grant?

- 71% would not have been able to extend the length of their program without the funding.
 - "It might be possible, without compensation to staff".
 - "As a very small [program] with a very limited after-school funding budget we could have never been able to have a July program without the funding".
 - "I doubt that we will offer the summer lunch program if the activity mini-grant is not available".

Recipient Survey Results

If this funding was ever available again, would you apply?

- 80% would apply again if funding was available.

Recipient Survey Results

Were the monthly reporting requirements clear and easy to understand?

- 62% thought it was easy to understand the reporting requirements.

A Word From Our Sponsors

Rochelle Hesford
Boulder Elementary
2010 Mini-Grant Recipient

Activities Activity

Share your experiences and ideas with others

Activity

- ◉ What activities did kids in your community like the most?

Activity

- What community partners did you utilize?
 - How did you approach them for help with activities?

Activity

- What activities can be provided on a limited budget? How do you budget for activities?

Activity

- What activities are you planning on doing this year? How are they different from last year?

Activity

- Any other ideas or experience to share with the group?